

Listing of Claims

The following listing of claims replaces all prior claim listings:

1-15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) A fiber optic connector assembly comprising:

the ~~a~~ fiber optic connector mounted to an end of and terminating a fiber optic cable and a ferrule holding an optical fiber from the cable, the ferrule including a end face;

a plug configured to fit about and engage the ferrule of the fiber optic connector, the plug positioned about and engaging the ferrule to seal the end face from air-borne particles; and

an adhesive tape releasably attached to the connector about the plug, holding the plug to the connector.

17. (Original) The assembly of claim 16, wherein the plug is made from a thermoplastic elastomer and deforms to fit about the ferrule.

18. (Original) The assembly of claim 17, wherein the plug includes a body defining an inner cavity with an opening for insertion of the ferrule within the cavity, the opening including a tapered entry and a ledge positioned between an inner end of the tapered entry and an inner wall of the cavity, the ledge defining an opening smaller than the diameter of the ferrule and the cavity having a diameter generally the same diameter as the ferrule.

19. (Original) The assembly of claim 18, wherein the body of the plug includes a larger diameter end opposite the opening and a shoulder is defined between an outer surface of the body and the larger diameter end.

20-22. (Canceled)

23. (New) A fiber optic connector assembly comprising:

a fiber optic connector mounted to and terminating a fiber optic cable, the fiber optic connector including a ferrule holding an optical fiber from the cable, the ferrule including an end face substantially free of contaminants;

a plug configured to be mounted over the ferrule of the fiber optic connector within a clean room environment, the plug configured to seal the end face of the ferrule from contaminants; and

a cover for holding the plug to the connector, the cover releasably attached to the plug and to the connector with adhesive.

24. (New) A sealing assembly comprising:

a plug configured to fit about and engage an end face of a ferrule coupled to a fiber optic connector, the plug configured to seal the end face of the ferrule from contaminants; and

an adhesive tape for holding the plug to the fiber optic connector, a center portion of the adhesive tape releasably attached to the plug and first and second end portions of the adhesive tape releasably attached to the fiber optic connector.